

27. *CERVICAPRA ARUNDINUM* Bodd.

♂. 1691, 1692. Masembeti.

"Native name, Isawy."

"Not by any means common."

"Inhabits the open plains, especially the long grass bordering the lakes and vleis."

"Here the Reed-Buck is unusually wild and difficult of approach."

28. *CEPHALOPHUS GRIMMI* L.

♂. 1778, 1787. Masembeti.

"Native name, 'Nkwenwi.'"

"Decidedly scarce in the district, only some half-dozen were seen during the trip."

"The natives say that this country is too damp for it, and it is quite possible this is one of the causes of its scarcity."

"Also, according to them, all the Duikers near Beira are of the same remarkable fawn coloration as the two specimens secured."

"It lies up in the forest, feeding in the open plains at night."

29. *CEPHALOPHUS HECKI* Matsch.

♂. 1779. Masembeti.

This is a pale-coloured animal with a dark median dorsal area, very different from the more southern *C. monticola*. It seems to possess all the characters attributed by Prof. Matschie to his *C. hecki*.

"Native name, 'Ngudo' or 'Sikwi.'"

"Scarce near Beira, slightly more common at the Masembeti River."

"Found exclusively in the forest; in habits is apparently similar to its congener in Zululand and the Knysna."

3. Notes on Two African Mammals. By R. LYDEKKER.

[Received October 20, 1907.]

(Text-figure 205.)

THE CAMERUNS ELEPHANT.

Since my paper on the ears of African Elephants* was published, I have learnt that the young living elephant from the hinterland of the South Cameruns upon which Dr. Matschie founded *Elephas africanus cyclotis* is figured in a work by Dr. L. Heck entitled 'Lebende Bilder aus dem Reiche der Tiere,' and published in Berlin in 1899. The ear is well shown in Dr. Heck's plate (No. 146), which is reproduced from a photograph, and appears to have a more regularly curved margin than the ear from Congo

* Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1907, pp. 380 *et seq.*

territory shown in fig. 111 of my paper, and provisionally referred to the same race as the Cameruns Elephant. Now that I have seen the photograph (to say nothing of the original) of the latter, I have little doubt that the Congo Elephant is distinct—an opinion shared by Dr. Matschie. Unless, then, it be identical with *E. a. albertensis*, the name *E. a. cottoni*, already suggested in my original paper, may be adopted for the Congo Elephant, although I am unable to define its characteristics.

I may also refer to another point which has been brought to my notice since the publication of the Elephant paper, namely that the head represented in fig. 112 was obtained only a few miles away from the spot where the type of *E. a. selousi*, fig. 108, was killed. The Duke of Westminster's Elephant must therefore belong to the last-named race. The mistake is largely due to the fact that when first writing the paper I was misinformed as to the locality of the type of *E. a. selousi*. It follows that the alleged inflection of the lappet of the ear in the latter is a feature of no importance; its presence or absence depending apparently upon the way in which the ear is mounted.

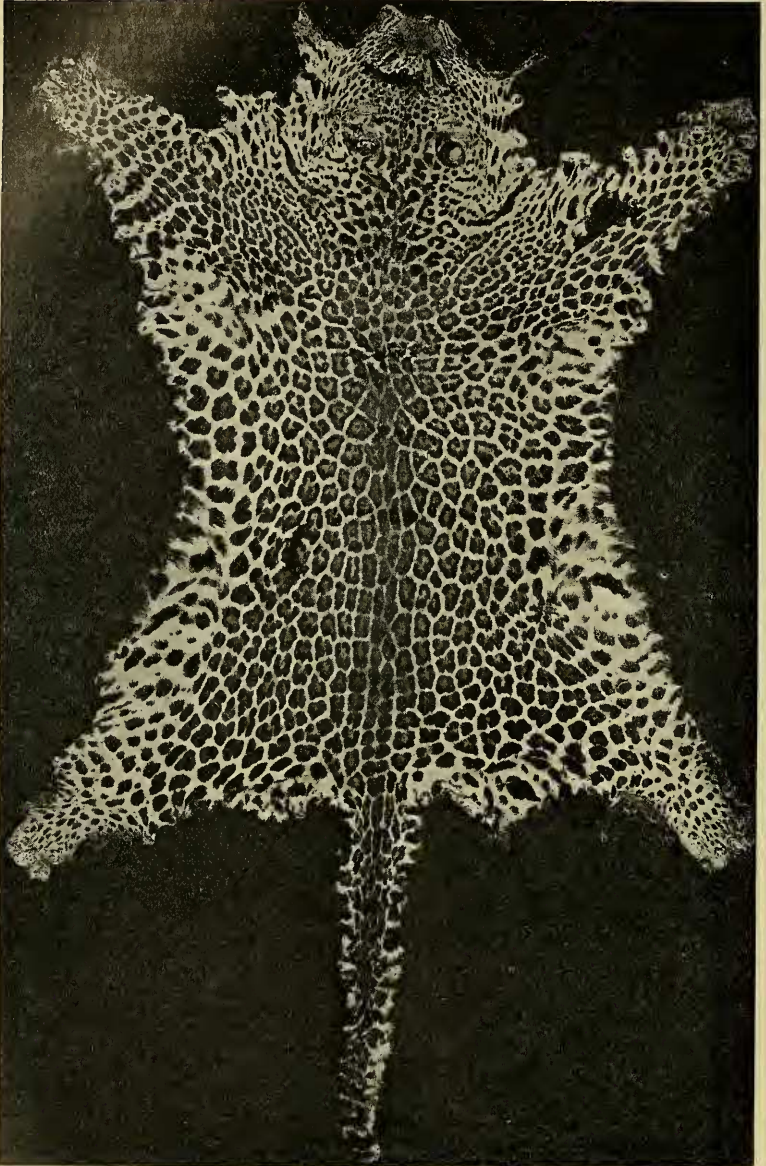
THE UGANDA LEOPARD.

The skin now exhibited (text-fig. 205), which was sent home from Uganda by Mr. Stanley C. Tomkins, is quite different in pattern from any other African leopard-skin that has hitherto come under my notice, and is certainly racially distinct from the ordinary small-spotted Leopard, of which, according to Mr. R. I. Pocock (Proc. Zool. Soc. 1907, pp. 675, 676), the West African *Felis pardus leopardus* is the typical representative. In addition to its colour-pattern, the Uganda skin is remarkable for the relative shortness of the limbs and tail; the length of the latter falling considerably short of half that of the head and body. Mr. Tomkins assures me that the tail is entire.

As regards pattern, the spots on the head are small and solid, and there is also the usual patch of larger solid spots on the withers, but with these exceptions and the occurrence of a double row of large oblong spots near the root of the tail, which seems quite peculiar to this form, the whole of the markings on the upper-parts take the form of large rosettes. These are frequently more or less completely closed, and often show one or two small solid spots in the enclosed area, which is darker than the general ground-colour. The latter gradually lightens from pale rufous fawn on the middle line of the back, to white on the under-parts, where, as on the limbs, the spots are very large and more or less completely solid. The point of resemblance to the ordinary small-spotted African leopards is the narrowness of the network of light lines.

A large-spotted Leopard, *Felis leopardus suahelicus*, has been described by Dr. O. Neumann (Zool. Jahrb., Syst. vol. xiii. p. 551, 1900), of which Uganda is one of the localities. No mention is,

Text-fig. 205.



A Leopard-skin from Uganda.

indeed, made in the description of *F. pardus suahelica*, as this large-spotted race should be called, of the occurrence of spots within the rosettes, which form such a marked feature in the skin sent by Mr. Tomkins. This I take to be a jaguar-like feature, although, except as regards their relative large size and completeness, the rosettes are not specially jaguar-like. Mr. Pocock (*op. cit.*) has already directed attention to jaguar-like Asiatic Leopards; and if I am right in my interpretation of the markings of the present specimen, we have now evidence of a resemblance to the American species in an African Leopard.

In addition to the above, a Leopard from Mount Ruwenzori has been recently described by Prof. L. Camerano* as *Felis pardus ruwenzorii*. This also seems to be a large-spotted form; and it is difficult to see how it can be separated from *F. p. suahelica*, at all events till we have a fuller description of the type specimen of the latter. The ground-colour, judging from the description, appears, however, to be darker than in the specimen now exhibited.

I certainly cannot affirm that the skin sent home by Mr. Tomkins is not referable to *F. p. suahelica*. If, however, the Leopard from German East Africa shown in plate 180 of Dr. Heck's above-cited work be the type of *suahelica*, then the specimen before us may possibly be distinct.

The locality where the Leopard-skin was obtained is Gomba. The specimen, I am pleased to be able to add, has been presented by Mr. Stanley Tomkins to the British Museum.

4. On the Feeding of Reptiles in Captivity. With Observations on the Fear of Snakes by other Vertebrates. By P. CHALMERS MITCHELL, D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.S., Secretary of the Society, and R. I. POCOCK, F.L.S., Superintendent of the Gardens.

[Received November 12, 1907.]

For a number of years it has been the practice in the Society's Gardens to feed snakes in captivity on dead animals wherever possible. The feeding has taken place weekly on Fridays after the Reptile House has been closed to visitors, and has been part of the duty of our extremely competent keeper of the reptiles, J. Tyrrell, who has great experience and an unusual facility in handling reptiles and interpreting their wants. One or other of us has from time to time been present at the feeding, but we desired to make observations over a continuous period, and accordingly one or both of us have been present on all occasions when the snakes have been fed between the beginning of May

* Boll. Mus. Zool. Torino, xxi. 1906, No. 343, p. 1.